

CBCB Newsletter

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Editorial

A lot of people have a sincere admiration for the person of Jesus and for the teaching of Jesus. Yet, they never become Christians. A good man like Mahatma Gandhi, for example, drew a great part of his inspiration from the Sermon on the Mount, yet he never became a Christian. In many of those cases of people we would call "Christ-fans," what prevents them from taking the decisive step and becoming full Christians is the Christian believe that Christ rose from the dead after three days. For those people, the belief in the Resurrection of Jesus is the obstacle which stops them from adopting Christianity as their religion. As the apostle St. Paul teaches: "If Christ has not been raised ... empty is your faith" (1 Cor 15:14). Resurrection is the core of the Christian Religion and upon which Christianity stands.

After seeing their Master die on the Cross, the disciples were at a loss. They did not know what to believe anymore. Would Jesus rise from the dead as He promised? On the other hand, his persecutors, the chief priests and the Pharisees, are certain that Jesus will not be able to realize His promise. And the women who have followed Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb on Easter morning, bearing spices and perfumed oil (Lk 24:1). They were going to anoint His body. It seems that no one was ready to believe in the Resurrection. The evangelist John said it well, "They did not yet understand the scripture that he had to rise from the dead." The resurrection is hard to grasp, yet it is the central mystery of our redemption. Christ's victory at Easter heals all chain of sins.

Today, Christians believe without reservation on the resurrection of Jesus. Easter is celebrated with great joy and thanksgiving. We live through pain, sorrow and suffering of Good Friday but we do not despair. We know that the Cross must come before the glory of the Resurrection. We cannot even speak of the Resurrection without speaking of the Crucifixion.

We are called to a new life in Christ. We can do that only if we first die to our pride, our selfishness, our petty concerns. This is the challenge of the Resurrection. Thus, speaking about His passion, Jesus tells the disciples, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit" (Jn 12:24).

Resurrection is the time for singing the Alleluia which means "Praise God." Let us reflect on this important time of the year: do we praise God even during times of great trials? I wish Happy Easter to you all.

South Asia Meeting on Women

South Asia Meeting on Women - III sponsored by the FABC (Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference) Office of Family and Laity was held at CBCB Centre, Dhaka from January 20 to 24, 2010. The topic was "Women Living the Eucharist in South Asia". The objective of the meeting was women who make up the majority in liturgical congregations be helped to understand the meaning of the Eucharist in the context of their lives, to promote women's participation in the mission of the Church - especially in the context of the FABC vision of A Participatory and Co-responsible Church - living as a Communion of Communities, to learn from Mary - how she lived an Eucharistic life. Altogether 41 participated from India, Pakistan, Srilanka, Nepal and host country Bangladesh. Resource persons of the program were: Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC, who delivered the keynote address. Women's participation in the mission of the Church based on the vision of FABC and the earlier BILAs on Women (Wendy Louis); Experience of Women Living the Eucharist in Asia (Sr. Cyrilla Chakalal); Mary Living the Eucharist (Sr. Evelyn Monteiro). The program also included exposure programs at Jagoroni, APON and a rehabilitation centre run by the lawyers where women are deeply involved. Other aspects of the program were sharing of country report, group discussion, country groups planning, special prayer services and Holy Eucharist. Most Rev. Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio presided over the opening Eucharistic celebration and Most Rev. Paulinus Costa of Dhaka was the chief guest for the inaugural session. The closing Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Patrick D'Rozario CSC at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon followed by cultural function and fellowship dinner. Ms. Virginia Saldanha, secretary of FABC Office of Family and Laity was present in the meeting.

Priestly Ordinations

The year 2009 Catholic Church in Bangladesh witnessed a remarkable event: was blessed an abundant harvest in the vineyard of the Lord. A total number of 15 deacons were ordained priests from December 2009 to February 2010. Of them 1 diocesan priest, two Holy Cross and 2 Oblates from the Archdiocese of Dhaka, 2 diocesan in Khulna diocese, 2 diocesan in Dinajpur diocese, 4 diocesan and 1 OMI in Rajshahi diocese, one diocesan in Chittagong diocese.

Warm Solidarity with Haitians

Having received the news of devastating earthquake in Haiti, Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD, Archbishop of Dhaka and President of the CBCB sent the following message to the Most Rev. Kebreau Louis, S.D.B., Bishop of Hinche and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Haiti on January 17, 2010 to:

Your Grace,

We are shocked and grieved by the recent unprecedented devastating earthquake in Haiti which caused the deaths of many people including an Archbishop, a great number of people homeless and missing and of material damages. According to the newspapers and

television reports, "The earthquake in Haiti is the worst disaster ever confronted by the United Nations." This catastrophe has left affected regions with little infrastructures. Many more bodies are still being found in the collapsed buildings. It is a tragedy that defies every expression.

We realize how the Christian Community in Haiti is agonizing under these painful events. May all those who died in the earthquake rest in peace. May Christ, the Prince of Peace at this hour of crisis and suffering comfort and console you. As one Body of Christ we are spiritually united with you.

The Catholic Church in Bangladesh has been constantly following the sad events in your country and praying both for victims and the country. We pray that with the help from all the people of God you may get over this period of calamity.

On behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) we express our deep sympathy again and oneness with you. We assure that you are not alone in your sufferings. We extend our warm solidarity to you and to all the families who lost their near and dear ones.

Asking God's abundant blessing on you and the people of Haiti, I remain,

Most Rev. Paulinus Costa, DD
Archbishop of Dhaka &
President of CBCB

Bishop Bejoy to Myanmar

Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze, Bishop of Khulna and President of Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious dialogue left for Myanmar on February 2 to attend a FABC meeting of Inter-religious dialogue in Yangon, Myanmar and returned on February 6, 2010.

Bishop Moses to Rome

Bishop Moses Costa of Dinajpur diocese and President of Seminary Commission left for Italy on February 2 to attend a seminar of the presidents of Episcopal Commissions. He returned on February 23, 2010.

Centenary Celebration of Mymensingh Diocese

Mymensingh Diocese joyfully celebrated 100 years of work of the Catholic Church in the diocese on February 12 - 14, 2010 at St. Joseph's Church, Ranikhong. In the course of time dedicated and committed foreign and local Missionaries, Priests, Religious, Catechists and Teacher-Catechists made valuable contribution to preaching the Good News of Christ in the Garo areas as well as in the country. The celebration began with lighting of 100 candles signifying hundred years of the presence and missionary activities of the Catholic Church. It may be mentioned that in 1909, five representatives of Garo (who were pagan at that time) from Tagshalpara of Soshung Durgapur approached Bishop Herth Joseph CSC

requesting him to send missionaries to that area. They were Ujir Ruram, Jiring Hajong, Thuthing Hajong, Thiman Dango and Singdu Ruga. Bishop Herth left the country in 1910 but left a recommendation to send missionaries there which was made possible by his successor, Bishop Francis Frederick by sending Fr. Adolf Francis CSC at the end of 1910. A monument has been constructed in Ranikhong Church premise in remembrance of five Garo representatives and Fr. Francis. A group of Garo were baptised on March 19, 1911 for the first time at Tagshalpara. He remained there for four years and in 1915 moved to Ranikhong where the Church was constructed. Right now there are almost 80 thousand Catholics in Mymensingh diocese.

Archbishop Robert Sarah, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of People was the chief guest. Archbishop Paulinus Costa of Dhaka, Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio, all other Bishops of Bangladesh except Bishop Moses Costa CSC (who was attending a seminar in Rome), Bishop Lumen CSC of Agartola (India), Bishop George Mamal Cherry of Tora (India) and his Auxiliary Bishop Andrew R. Marak, 55 priests, a good number of Religious and 15 thousand faithful were present on this auspicious occasion at Ranikhong. Around three thousand faithful and a good number of priests and religious from neighbouring India (especially from Garo Hills) also joined this centennial celebration. A few friends of the diocese came all the way from Korea, Italy and Germany.

Archbishop Robert Sarah in his talk congratulated the faithful on behalf of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples for their active participation in spreading the Good News. All the Bishops and distinguished guests spoke on the occasion. The solemn Eucharistic celebration of the centenary took place on February 14 at 9:30 P.M. presided over by Bishop Ponen Kubi CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh and Archbishop Sarah preached. At the end of mass, Advocate Promod Mankhin, only Catholic Member of the Parliament (MP) and now State Minister for Cultural Affairs of the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh also spoke on the occasion.

Visit of Archbishop Robert Sarah

Archbishop Robert Sarah, Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples arrived on February 12 for a six day visit to Bangladesh. Archbishop Joseph Marino and Archbishop Paulinus Costa received him at the airport. The same day he left for Ranikhong to attend the centenary celebration of work of the Catholic Church in Mymensingh diocese.

After the jubilee celebration Archbishop Sarah visited Biroidakuni parish on February 15. A reception was given to him by the parishioners and the students of the Biroidakuni High School. Bishop Ponen Kubi CSC accompanied Archbishop Sarah.

On February 16, Archbishop Sarah gave a talk to the Bishops, priests, religious and laity at CBCB Centre on the theme "Proclaiming Christ in a Multi Religions Society." More than 100 participated in that program. In his talk, Archbishop Sarah said, proclaiming Christ is a mandate. Jesus Himself said to the disciples "Go, to the whole world and proclaim the Good News". He highlighted three areas to proclaim the Good News in a multi religions society: inculturation, dialogue and life witness. After his talk there was a little time for open discussion. Later on Archbishop Sarah had a meeting with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh.

Visit of Archbishop Claudio Celli

Archbishop Claudio Celli, President of the Pontifical Council for Social Communication visited Bangladesh from February 14 - 17, 2010. As part of his historic trip to Bangladesh he visited and gave talks at the Holy Spirit Major Seminary, Christian Communication Centre and CBCB Centre. In his talks he emphasized on the influence of modern media in our social life and effective use of Mass Media in our ministry to proclaim the Good News. He regretted saying that many priests and seminarians do not know and even not interested to know how to use internet and other means of modern mass media. He encouraged the seminarians to use the media properly and to build up fraternity through communication. He also spoke to the staff and employees of Christian Communication Centre.

In his talk to the Bishops, priests, religious and laity, Archbishop Celli stated that modern technology has provided us a golden opportunity in the field of communication. He urged to use that facility to spread the Good News in the whole world. The Holy Father has also asked to use the mass media for the pastoral activities of the Church.

CBCB Meeting

The first meeting of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) in 2010 was held on February 24 – 25 at CBCB Centre, Dhaka. Archbishop Paulinus Costa and all other Bishops were present at the meeting. The main discussion of the meeting were as follows: Christian Religion Trust, Consistent contact with the government, Visit of Cardinal Tauran, Financial Councils, Governing Body meeting of HSMS, National workshop on SCC, World Youth Day, BDPF Jubilee, Final document of the IX FABC Plenary Assembly, Common Pastoral Plan for the next three years etc.

Most Rev. Joseph Marino and Msgr. Mark Kadima met the Bishops during the CBCB meeting. The Nuncio shared some important issues with the Bishops. Fr. Shorot F. Gomes, Fr. Sebastian Tudu and Fr. Emmanuel Rozario were present for the governing body meeting of the Holy Spirit Major Seminary. The Priests appealed to the Bishops for some immediate needs of the seminary including more personnel in the seminary formation and teaching staff members. The Bishops gave them a patient hearing. Fr. Shorot F. Gomes also presented the accounts of the seminary for the year 2009. As usual, the meeting began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Paulinus Costa of Dhaka. The Nuncio invited the Bishops for dinner on February 25 at the Nunciature. Bishop Michael D'Rozario CSC, Bishop Emeritus also joined the other Bishops.

Annual Assembly of the Episcopal Bodies

Like other years in the past the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh had Annual Assembly with the Episcopal Bodies on February 26, 2010 at the CBCB Centre. Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD, all other Bishops, secretary/director of Episcopal Bodies and one representative of the affiliated desk or one member of each Episcopal Body (altogether 36 members) were present in the assembly. There are 14 Episcopal Bodies of the Catholic Bishops' Conference working in various fields of the country. The names of the Chairman and Secretaries are given below. These Bodies are divided as related to Apostolate, related to Persons and related to Evangelization.

(i) Episcopal Bodies Related to Apostolate:

(a) Episcopal Commission for Liturgy & Prayer

Chairman: Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC

Secretary: Fr. Patrick Gomes

(b) Episcopal Commission for Catechetics and Biblical Apostolate

Chairman: Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI

Secretary: Fr. Pio Mattevi SX

(c) Episcopal Commission for Family Life

Chairman: Bishop Ponon P. Kubi CSC

Secretary: Fr. David S. Gomes

(d) Bangladesh Catholic Education Board

Chairman: Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC

Secretary: Fr. Benjamin Costa CSC

(e) Episcopal Commission for Health Care

Chairman: Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC

Secretary: Fr. Francesco Rapacioli PIME

(f) Episcopal Commission for Justice & Peace

Chairman: Bishop Gervas Rozario

Secretary: Fr. Albert T. Rozario

(g) Episcopal Commission for Christian Unity & Inter-religious Dialogue

Chairman: Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI

Secretary: Fr. James Cruze CSC

(h) Episcopal Commission for Social Communication

Chairman: Bishop Gervas Rozario

Secretary: Fr. Joyonto S. Gomes

(ii) Episcopal Commission Related to Persons

(a) Episcopal Commission for Youth

Chairman: Bishop Moses Costa CSC

Secretary: Fr. Patrick S. Gomes

(b) Episcopal Commission for Laity

Chairman: Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC

Secretary: Mr. Chayon H. Rebeiro

(c) Episcopal Commission for Clergy & Religious

Chairman: Bishop Subrato Lawrence Howlader CSC

Secretary: Sr. Mary Dipti SMRA

(d) Episcopal Commission for Seminary

Chairman: Bishop Moses Costa CSC

Secretary: Fr. Shorot F. Gomes

(iii) Episcopal Organizations Related to Evangelization

(a) Caritas Bangladesh

President: Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC

Executive Director: Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario

(b) Mission and Promotion of Pontifical Mission Societies

Chairman: Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD

Secretary: Fr. Tapon D'Rozario

Seminar for Secretaries and Directors of the Episcopal Bodies

Catholic Bishops' Conference of Bangladesh (CBCB) organized a seminar for the first time for the secretaries and directors of the Episcopal Bodies at Bishop's House, Rajshahi. The theme of the seminar was "Planning for the Next Three Years and Streamlining of Secretarial Activities of the Episcopal Bodies." 31 participated in that important event of the Church from March 9 – 11, 2010. The seminar was commenced with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Paulinus Costa DD, Archbishop of Dhaka. A group of girls from the Cathedral parish performed dances welcoming the participants in the inaugural session. Bishop Gervas Rozario, the bishop of the host diocese also spoke. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Secretary General of the CBCB explained the aims and the objectives of the seminar. The subject matters of the seminar were: Pastoral Plan of the Church in Bangladesh: Evolution and Present Direction (Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC); Formulation of Vision, Mission, Priorities, Focus in the light of Pastoral Plan (Bishop Gervas Rozario); Planning Dynamics in the light of Pastoral Plan (Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario); Episcopal Commissions: Main Thrust in the light of Pastoral Plan (Bishop Moses Costa CSC); Orientation of the next Three Year Pastoral Plan (Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC); The Nature of Planning and Suggestions for Actions (Dr. Benedict Alo D'Rozario); Executive Functions and Secretarial Responsibilities (Ms. Thelma Irene Rozario); Organizing Programs (Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC); Episcopal Commissions: Relationship with Dioceses and Diocesan Commissions (Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC). A short evaluation took place at the end of the program conducted by Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC. The Catholic Bishops in Bangladesh are planning to focus next three years (2011 – 2013) on the theme, "New Way of Being Church" with the attention of an assessment of the basic religio-cultural character of Bangladesh land and peoples, in the light of the Gospel (2011); Overview and planning of the Basic Social Life (2012); Relationship ad extra: becoming a self-giving Church (2013).

National Seminar of the Animators of Holy Childhood

The Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) arranged a seminar for the animators of Holy Childhood in Caritas Regional Office and Diocesan Pastoral Centre of Mymensingh Diocese on March 11 – 13, 2010. 184 attended the seminar from all six dioceses of Bangladesh. The inaugural Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Rev. Ponen P. Kubi CSC, Bishop of Mymensingh diocese and the closing Eucharistic celebration by Most Rev. Paulinus Costa DD, Archbishop of Dhaka. The subject matters of the seminar were: Introducing PMS, Awareness and Mission of the Holy Childhood Animators in the Year of Priests (Fr. Jyoti F. Costa); Formation of the Child and Role of the Holy Childhood Animator in the Planning of Diocesan Pastoral Plan (Fr. Sebastian Tudu). There was a rally from various corners to the Caritas Office on the work of Evangelization in Mymensingh Diocese as it celebrated the 100 years of work of the Catholic Church this year. There was also an exposure program at Jalchatra and Rajbari. The children performed cultural programs welcoming the animators at Jalchatra. On the last day, model classes were held. The practical experiences of the animators working with the children were demonstrated in the model classes. Prizes were also given to five persons of Mymensingh diocese who labored hard in the local Church for the children.

English Course at BCR

A six week long English course was arranged by the Bangladesh Conference of Religious (BCR) at BCR Centre, Savar, Dhaka with 40 participants from January 10 – February 20, 2010. Fr. Aelred Gomes SJ and Bro. Marti, Marist Brother were the principal conductors of the course. The overall-in-charge of the course was Sr. Mary Lily SMRA and assisted by Sr. Clara Costa LSC. Four methods of teachings English were applied in the course: reading, listening, writing and speaking. Daily mass and prayers were in English as well as songs and readings. The course ended on February 20 with Holy Eucharistic celebration and distribution of certificates among the participants. (Thanks to Sr. Mary Lily SMRA)

Archbishop awarded for Human Rights

Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD of Dhaka has received an award for his efforts in fostering communal harmony in the country. The Human Rights Legal Aid Society handed over the awards to the Archbishop along with seven others on February 27 for contributions in defending human rights in Bangladesh. The awards were presented by Chief Justice Fazlul Karim of the Supreme Court. We express our heartfelt congratulation to our Archbishop.

Christian Cricket Tournament

With great joy the Episcopal Commission for Youth, which is responsible mainly for the formation of the Christian Youth of the country organized the 6th Christian Cricket Tournament at Notre Dame College play ground. Altogether 11 teams from different parts of the country participated. Bishop Theotonius Gomes CSC formally inaugurated the tournament. The final match was between Achik Ponthe Kings Eleven and Toomilia Jubo Akadoth Team. Achik Ponte won the game. Marshal Ritchil was declared the man of the match and Remi Gomes of Golla Mission Jubo Songo was declared the man of the tournament. Bishop Moses Costa CSC, Chairman of Episcopal Commission for Youth distributed prizes to the winners. The objectives of this game were to discover talented Christian cricket heroes from all over the country; to inspire them to introduce to all cricket-environment in the national level; through this tournament, the Commission intended to instill Christian Religious values into the youths. Each match either began or ended with a small prayer. (Thanks to Fr. Patrick S. Gomes)

Asia, Africa Churches boom

The number of Catholics in Asia has risen nearly 16% and roughly one in five of the world's priests are now come from Africa or Asia, the latest edition of the Vatican's Statistical Yearbook shows.

While European priests in 2000 accounted for nearly 51 percent of the world's priests, eight year later, that figure dropped to 47 percent.

Data released on Tuesday show the number of Catholics in Africa rose by 33 percent in the period from 2000 to 2008, any by 15.6 percent in Asia. On the other hand, the number of Catholics in Europe increased only by 1 percent.

Over these nine years, the Catholic presence in the world has grown from 1,045 million in 2000 to 1,166 million in 2008, an increase of 11.54 percent.

Considering the statistics in detail, numbers in Africa grew by 33 percent, in Europe they remained generally stable (an increase of 1.17 percent), while in Asia they increased by 15.61 percent, in Oceania by 11.39 percent and in America by 10.93 percent.

The number of Bishops in the world went up from 4541 in 2000 to 5002 in 2008, an increase of 10.15 percent.

The number of priests also increased slightly over this nine year period, passing from 405,178 in 2000 to 409,166 in 2008, an over all rise of 0.98 percent. In Africa and Asia priest numbers increased (respectively, by 33.1 percent and 23.8 percent Americas they remained stable, while they fell by 7 percent in Europe and 4 percent in Oceania. The number of diocesan priests increased by 3.1 percent, going from 265,781 in 2000 to 274,007 in 2008.

Of the continents, only Europe showed a clear reduction in priests: in 2000 they represented 51 percent of the world total, in 2008 just 47 percent.

On the other hand, Asia and Africa together represented 17.5 percent of the world total in 2000 and 20.9 percent in 2008. The Americas slightly increased its percentage to around 30 percent of the total.

Female religious are almost double the number of priests, and 14 times that of non-ordained male religious, but their numbers are falling, from 800,000 in 2000 to 740,000 in 2008. The number of female religious has increased in the most dynamic continents: Africa up to 21 percent and Asia up to 16 percent.

The Statistical Yearbook of the Church also includes information on the number of Philosophy and Theology students in diocesan and religious seminaries. In global terms, their numbers increased from 110,583 in 2000 to more than 117,024 in 2008. In Africa and Asia their numbers went up whereas Europe saw a reduction. (Source: CathNews Asia)

Silver Jubilee of Bangladesh Diocesan Priests' Fraternity (BDPF)

Bangladesh Diocesan Priests' Fraternity (BDPF) celebrated its silver jubilee with much enthusiasm and festivities on April 23, 2010 at Holy Rosary Church, Tejgaon. Around 160 diocesan priests, Archbishop Paulinus Costa DD, Archbishop Joseph Marino, Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh, all other Bishops (except Bishop Theotoniuz Gomes CSC who attended a program out of Dhaka) diocesan priests and representatives of religious priests were present on this auspicious occasion. Altogether 180 priests were present for the jubilee mass. It is for the first time in the history of Bangladesh that so many priests gathered together for a single event. The jubilee celebration began with the hoisting of the National and BDPF flags and a welcome dance. The mass was presided over by Most Rev. Paulinus Costa, Archbishop of Dhaka assisted at the altar by Fr. Topon D'Rozario and Fr. Emmanuel K. Rozario, President of BDPF and Convener of Silver Jubilee respectively. In his homily the Archbishop emphasized the need of the spirit of communion and fraternity among the diocesan priests. After the mass the Papal Nuncio, Bishop Gervas Rozario, Bishop Bejoy D'Cruze OMI and Fr. Topon spoke. Later on the Bishops, priests and invited guests moved to Bottomley Home School premises for fellowship meal.

Cultural program began at 4 P.M. in the Bottomley Home School premise. Different groups representing the dioceses and some other noted artists and singers took part in the program which lasted almost three and half hours. The jubilee program ended with dinner at Tejgaon Community Centre.

On April 22, a day-long seminar cum annual general assembly (AGM) of BDPF took place at CBCB Centre, Mohammadpur. The theme of the celebration was "The identity and role of the priests in the context of Bangladesh". The program began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Moses Costa CSC, Bishop of Dinajpur and Secretary General of CBCB. It was a very significant mass as only the priests and the Bishops were present in the mass. The program also included talks by Fr. Sushil Louis Pereira on the theme, Vision and Plan of the Bishops for the Priests in Bangladesh by Bishop Patrick D'Rozario CSC followed by panel discussion. Afternoon session began with the AGM. Then Bishop Ponon P. Kubi CSC and Bishop Subrato Lawrence Howlader CSC shared their life experience, challenges and possibilities of the Religious Congregations with the Diocesan Priests in Bangladesh. Later on a few Provincials, Superior Generals, Delegation Superior were invited to share their experiences of the life of the diocesan priests. The program ended with happy hour and fraternal dinner. 150 priests and Bishops attended the day long program.

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